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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Farewell to a legend - Aksam  
Let peace be Arafat's legitimacy - Hurriyet  
Palestine to mourn Arafat for 40 days - Sabah  
Arafat, a life dedicated to Palestine - Aksam  
One day Arafat will be buried in Jerusalem - Milliyet  
Arafat to be temporarily buried in Ramallah - HO-Tercuman  
Bush signals a Palestine state - Sabah  
Orthodox Jews pray for Arafat in Paris - Aksam 11/11  
Mourning in Palestine, joy in Israel - Aksam  
Funeral in Cairo, burial in Ramallah - Hurriyet 11/11  
'Ghost Fury' to continue for two more days - Sabah  
Gonzales, a controversial name, to be new US Attorney General - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Palestine mourns its leader - Zaman  
'Last warrior' is no more - Cumhuriyet  
Arafat dies, millions of Palestinians mourn - Radikal  
Arafat's authority split into three - Zaman  
Humanitarian tragedy in Fallujah - Zaman 11/11  
Fallujah operation spreads resistance to other Sunni cities - Zaman  
Iraqi resistance 'masterminds' flee Fallujah - Radikal 11/11  
Allawi's relatives taken hostage - Radikal 11/11  
Ashcroft, architect of Patriot Act, resigns - Zaman 11/11  
Israel detains Vanunu again - Zaman

BRIEFING

Arafat's death: Turkish leaders expressed sorrow on Thursday for the death of Palestinian leader Yaser Arafat, and pledged continuing support to the Palestinian struggle for an independent state. President Sezer said he believed Arafat's loss would not affect the Palestinian cause, and that the Palestinian people would choose for themselves the leader that will take them to independence. In a letter to his Palestinian counterpart Ahmed Kurey, PM Erdogan hailed Arafat as a man who determinedly defended the just cause of his people. 'Turkey will maintain its support for Palestine,' Erdogan said. FM Gul, who will accompany Erdogan to attend Arafat's funeral in Cairo on Friday, also expressed confidence that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle until two states live side by side in peace. Turkish papers comment on the death of Arafat as a considerable loss for the Palestinians and their cause. But a column in the liberal daily "Radikal" accuses Arafat of 'swindling' billions of dollars that had been sent in financial aid to Palestine. 'Arafat intimidated Palestinian intellectuals and dissidents by using terror groups like Hamas,' columnist Mine Kirikkant claims, arguing that the Palestinian leader had done nothing to help rebuild his country.

Fallujah operation: The US military said 18 American servicemen and 5 Iraqi soldiers had died since the battle for the Iraqi rebel enclave Fallujah was launched on Monday. Rebel losses are put at more than 600, papers report. US military officials claimed their forces control about 75 percent of the city. The Iraqi military said it had found a 'slaughterhouse' in Fallujah where foreign hostages had been executed. US forces are on course to retake the city by Saturday morning. The Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak" claimed in a front-page story on Thursday that US forces are using chemical weapons and poison gas in the battle for Fallujah. Left-leaning "Cumhuriyet" claims that the US is using cluster bombs. Iraqi State Minister Vail Abdulatif, during an official visit to Ankara on Wednesday, told PM Erdogan that the operation in Fallujah was launched at the request of the city's people, who seek an end to terrorism

and the establishment of stability in advance of elections scheduled for next January. Erdogan reportedly warned Abdulatif to avoid the excessive use of force in the operation and to avoid giving the impression that the battle had turned into a Christian-Muslim conflict. Papers report that the Turkish Red Crescent is prepared to send 6 truckloads of food to Fallujah. Papers also report State Department Spokesman Boucher as pledging that the US would spend \$90 million for the rebuilding of Fallujah, which will begin before January 2005.

Erdogan due in Damascus: PM Erdogan is scheduled to visit Syria as the official guest of his Prime Minister Muhammed Naci Otri after the December 17 EU summit in Brussels, papers report. Erdogan plans to discuss Iraq and other regional issues during the visit.

Turks in US face 'hardships': A number of Turks living in the US have been detained for visa violations and improper immigration procedures in New York and New Jersey, the Anatolian Agency (AA) reported on Wednesday. Lawyer Melinda Basaran said that Turkish students who had not renewed their school admissions, Turks who had failed to extend visas, and those who have lost their legal immigrant status were included among the detainees. Basaran claimed that Turks who want to get a US visa are facing considerable hardships. Turkey's Consul General said he was aware of reports of the systematic detention of Turks, but had no first-hand information to confirm the claims."

Andrew Mango on GME, Iraq: Former BBC Turkey desk chief Andrew Mango told the daily "Aksam" on Thursday that the US Greater Middle East (GME) project was a 'pipe dream.' 'The US has not even allocated funds for the GME project,' Mango said. In his second term in office, President Bush will be busy 'cleaning up the dirt' left over from his first term, he speculated. Mango said Turkey would benefit from a US 'success' in Iraq: 'Whether you support him or not, you must want President Bush to be successful in Iraq.'

Gen. Ozkok sees terror as largest global threat: Chief of Turkish General Staff, General Hilmil Ozkok said at a simulated military training at the War Academy in Istanbul that Turkey no longer regards other hostile countries as an important threat. Instead, Ozkok said, the main threat to all countries today is posed by terrorism. Ozkok added that Ankara has offered to set up three anti-terror 'centers of excellence' in Turkey in an effort to support the new command structure in NATO.

**EDITORIAL OPINION:**  
The Death of Yaser Arafat;  
The Battle for Fallujah

"The Death of Arafat and the Mistakes of the Struggle" Huseyin Gulerce wrote in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (11/12): "Israel, which has been fully supported by US policy no matter which party was in power, is now pleased by the death of Arafat. But will Arafat's death really give Sharon the opportunity he is looking for? Although it's difficult to say this right after Arafat's death, we have to point out the mistakes in the PLO's - that is, Arafat's - policies. We have to ask, without letting our emotions get in the way, how much the up-and-down policies of the PLO really contributed to the struggle of the Palestinian people. We are all aching for the Palestinian people because of the massacres and inhuman treatment they have been subjected to. Israel is ruthlessly bombing, killing, and murdering (including ordinary women and children) before the eyes of the world. Despite all of this, we must also say that suicide attacks have no place in our religion. An Islamic movement cannot attack randomly, including women and children, on buses and in shopping centers. Islam has specific rules about who can and cannot be a target and what kinds of operations are legitimate. Killing women, children, non-combatant men, or religious leaders in places of worship is not permitted in our religion. The mistakes that have been made in the name of religion, by the actions of a few, have cast a shadow over a legitimate struggle and opened the way for Islam and all Muslims to be condemned by the world. Nobody has the right to do this. The recent US attack against Iraq and ongoing US policies have turned the Middle East into a real mess. A positive solution to this mess is impossible to see. The US and Israel see this moment as an opportunity to press their policies. They are counting on a weakening of the Palestinian movement with the death of Arafat. But peace in the Middle East depends most of all on US willingness to free itself from the role of custodian of Israeli policies and interests. The main problem lies in the weakness of US foreign policy. Bush and his team cannot hope to bring peace to the Middle East by ignoring all warnings and taking on the entire Islamic world. Palestine is a holy place for Muslims, Christians, and Jews. The basis for preventing a clash of civilizations lies in these territories. The eyes of the world are now on

America."

"After Arafat"

Oktay Eksi wrote in the sensationalist daily "Hurriyet" (11/12): "For years he was considered the leader of a 'terrorist organization.' But the ruthlessness of other underground organizations in Palestine saved Arafat from the terrorist label and gave him greater legitimacy. He even came to be regarded as a President, albeit one with neither a state nor territory. Arafat was without question an important leader in the Middle East. For 40 years he maintained the support of the people and the power of the struggle. Palestinians viewed him as the most courageous and determined symbol of their cause. But it would be hard to say that Arafat possessed the attributes of a real leader. For example, he wasn't a leader whose word could be trusted. He was undoubtedly the symbol of the Palestinian cause. But rather than trying to legitimize that struggle, he preferred to make himself indispensable to the movement. When former President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Barak offered an agreement with unprecedented benefits for the Palestinians, Arafat missed the opportunity. If only he hadn't. But even some flawed leaders can cause people to overlook their flaws by the magnitude of their great works. We couldn't say that about Arafat, because his file also includes evidence that he took the people's money and used it for his own purposes. The Palestinians deserve to have their independence and to establish their own state, but the price of this shouldn't be extortion at the hands of their own leader."

"After Arafat"

Nuray Basaran wrote in the sensationalist daily "Aksam" (11/12): "Of course, Arafat had his detractors as well as his supporters. He was someone who knew very well the dynamics of the Middle East and played an important role in these dynamics. Arafat has left a great deal of uncertainty in Palestine. There are many unanswered questions, and much concern. The questions concern who will take Arafat's place, as well as the future of the domestic situation in Palestine and its relations with Israel. Ruhi Fettuh has been named interim president until an election can be held within 60 days. PLO General Secretary Mahmud Abbas has been selected as President of the PLO. Ahmed Kurey has remained as prime minister. Arafat trusted all three of these men. The Palestinian people, however, view them as tainted by corruption, and none has the kind of popular support that Arafat enjoyed. Whether there will actually be an election within 60 days is also a matter of debate, and will probably depend on what other figures emerge from inside Palestine to challenge these three. For example, Muhammed Dahlan and Mervan Barguti are both viewed more favorably by the people. They worked alongside Arafat until they were perceived to have become too powerful. All of these names can be considered as moderates when it comes to dealing with Israel and making efforts toward a peace settlement. But there are other groups as well - Hamas and Islamic Jihad principal among them - that are working to be included in the new administration. Palestine no longer has Yaser Arafat, but it has great responsibilities and many steps that it needs to take on its road to statehood. International powers including the United States, the UN, and Europe are ready to take on their responsibilities along this road. Across the river, Israel also has some difficult decisions to make, particularly if the United States and Europe become more involved in the issue. These questions will become clearer in the days ahead."

"Fallujah, Chemical Weapons, and Napalm Bombs."

Ibrahim Karagul wrote in the Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak" (11/11): "During his 25 years of rule, Saddam Hussein killed 300,000 Iraqis, mostly Shiites and Kurds. America has reached one-third of this total in just 18 months. This leaves out the torture, rape, humiliation, ruin, and civil war with which Iraq is now faced. All of us judged Saddam in the name of humanity. But who will judge the United States? How can those who judged Saddam now become partners in these atrocities? As soon as the universal war gang won reelection on November 3, they started with Fallujah. After that, Ramadi and Bakuba will be subjected to similar massacres. The soldiers participating in the Fallujah operation were specially selected from among the growing evangelical contingent in the US military. Now they are fighting with their crosses and their hymns. For this reason, 150 mosques in Fallujah have been attacked. Many of them have been destroyed, along with one-third of the city. Yesterday, the 'Islam-online' website published the frightening claim that the United States, in an effort to break the resistance, has used chemical weapons and napalm on Fallujah. It has been learned that napalm and chemical weapons have been used in areas heavily populated by the resistance, and that the streets there are full of bodies. Dr. Muhammed el-Cemili, who spoke to the Jerusalem Press Agency in Fallujah, said that 'after US forces suffered significant losses, they turned to chemical weapons and poison gas.' 'They dropped huge bombs that created the

effect of an earthquake, and the chemical weapons burned the skin and killed people over a wide area,' he added. They are following the path of Winston Churchill, who tried to break the resistance between 1920-1930 by using poison gas, setting fire to villages, and carrying out large-scale massacres. So what will happen now? The resistance fighters understand they cannot defend the city, so they will go elsewhere. They will go to liberate another city, and then they will return. After all, haven't US forces taken Samarra from the resistance three times already?"

EDELMAN